

New SLR Adaptation Ideas proposed by Commenters -- DRAFT

For review and discussion at April 26, 2013 SLRAC Meeting

1. **Include SLR in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan**
 - a. Note, DEMA plans to include SLR in the 2013 Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - b. Inclusion in the state Adaptation Plan would show support to the agency for this action
2. **Amend the Beach Preservation Act**
 - a. Expand the “Building Line”
 - i. The Beach Building Line is a statewide regulation that prohibits structures to be built seaward of the “building line”. It applies only on ocean and bay beach communities from Pickering Beach to Fenwick Island.
 - b. Expand area where state funded beach replenishment projects can occur
 - i. This program utilizes funding from the Public Accommodations Tax to manage and repair shorelines between Pickering Beach and Fenwick Island. Expenditures of funding for shorelines north of Pickering is not allowed under this act.
 - ii. Limit Expenditures of state dollars for beach replenishment and/or discontinue the practice of beach replenishment using public funds
3. **Modernize Urban Sewer Systems**
 - a. Some urban sewer systems discharge directly to rivers in large rainfall events; increasing tide heights may be preventing this discharge and contributing to street flooding. This is also likely a problem for many stormwater pipes which discharge to tidal waters.
4. **Create a statewide law giving DNREC authority to regulate buildings in the 100-year floodplain**
 - a. Currently, local governments have the sole authority to do this, with the exception of the building line. Several commenters urged that development in the floodplain be stopped altogether.
5. **Create a state inundation certification certificate for SLR, based on the flood elevation certificate.**
 - a. The FEMA elevation certificate is used by a homeowner to obtain flood insurance. Commenter did not specify how it would be used for SLR
6. **Provide greater protection for non-tidal wetlands**
 - a. Current state law requires permits for activities in tidal wetlands, but not non-tidal wetlands
7. **Insurance availability**
 - a. There were several general concerns about the continued availability of insurance and insurance affordability and a specific suggestion:
 - b. “There needs to be a central place where individuals and communities can get up-to-date information on storm and flood insurance availability and costs from both private and public sources, and how they are changing with time. The Insurance Commissioner’s office should work with DNREC Coastal Programs to see that the information is available and that property owners, buyers and builders know where to go to get it.”
8. **No government action**
 - a. Several commenters indicated a preference for no government action and/or no further public expenditures.